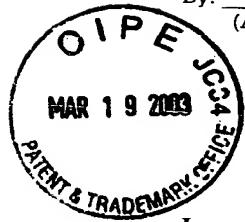


Date: March 19, 2003

I hereby certify that this document is being filed by personal delivery to the Customer Service Window, Crystal Plaza 2, 2011 South Clark Place, Arlington Virginia, of the United States Patent & Trademark Office on the date indicated above.

By:

*Peter C Kean*  
(Attorney Signature and Reg. No.)



3651  
H6  
Election  
3-26-03

Patent  
Attorney's Docket No. 10012357-1

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of )  
Steven W. Trovinger and Ross R. Allen )  
Application No.: 09/934,725 ) Confirmation No.: 5347  
Filed: August 20, 2001 ) Examiner: Patrick Hewey Mackey  
For: Binding System With Sheet-Wise )  
Formation Of Features )

**RESPONSE TO  
ELECTION OF SPECIES**

**RECEIVED**

MAR 25 2003

**GROUP 3600**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In an Official Action dated February 26, 2003, the Examiner has indicated that an election of one of the species in each of the following groups is required under 35 U.S.C. § 121:

Group I: Species A, B and C;

Group II: Species D and E;

Group III: Species F & G;

Group IV: Species H and I; and

Group V: Species J, K, L and M

Accordingly, Applicants provisionally elect:

Species A of Group I;

Species D of Group II;  
Species F of Group III;  
Species H of Group IV and  
Species M of Group V, with traverse.

Presently, the following claims read on the respective Species:

Claims 1-3, 6-21 and 24-29 read on Species A of Group I.

With respect to Group II:

Claims 1-7 and 9-29 read on Species D.

With respect to Group III:

Claims 1-9 and 11-29 read on Species F.

With respect to Group IV:

Claims 1-12 and 14-29 read on Species H.

With respect to Group V:

Claims 1-15, 19-25 and 28-29 read on Species M.

At least claims 1-3, 6, 11, 14-15, 19-21, 24-25 and 28-29 are generic.

Applicants submit that the requirement for an election is in error. Because independent claims 1, 19 and 29 are generic to the species identified by the Examiner, and because these generic claims are considered to be allowable, it is respectfully submitted that the election requirement is in error. Further, upon allowance of a generic claim, Applicants are entitled to claims directed to a reasonable number of species. It is respectfully submitted that the non-elected species identified by the Examiner constitute a reasonable number.

Further, the election requirement is traversed because it will not reduce the

workload of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office or simplify prosecution of the application.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the aforementioned species election is respectfully requested. The provisional election is hereby made without prejudice to Applicants' right to file a divisional application or applications should the election of species requirement become final.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 19, 2003

By:   
Patrick C. Keane  
Registration No. 32,858

Hewlett Packard Company  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 272400  
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

(703) 836-6620